

New Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board for Kent

Kent Housing Group
10 February 2021

Local Partnership Boards

“A relevant local authority in England must appoint a domestic abuse local partnership board for the purposes of providing advice to the authority about the exercise of the authority’s functions under section 54.”

Domestic Abuse Bill, 2019-21

The Bill sets out which partners should be represented:

- Tier 1 Authority (*KCC*)
- Tier 2 Authority if applicable (*District, Borough and City Councils*)
- Victims of domestic abuse (*which can be represented through providers and / or separate discussions at DA Forums which are fed in*)
- Children of DA victims (*as above*)
- DA Charities and other VCS organisations (*DA accommodation service providers*)
- Health Care services (*CCG, providers*)
- Policing or criminal justice (*including Police, OPCC, Probation*)
- Local Housing (*Housing providers*)

Proposed purpose and responsibilities

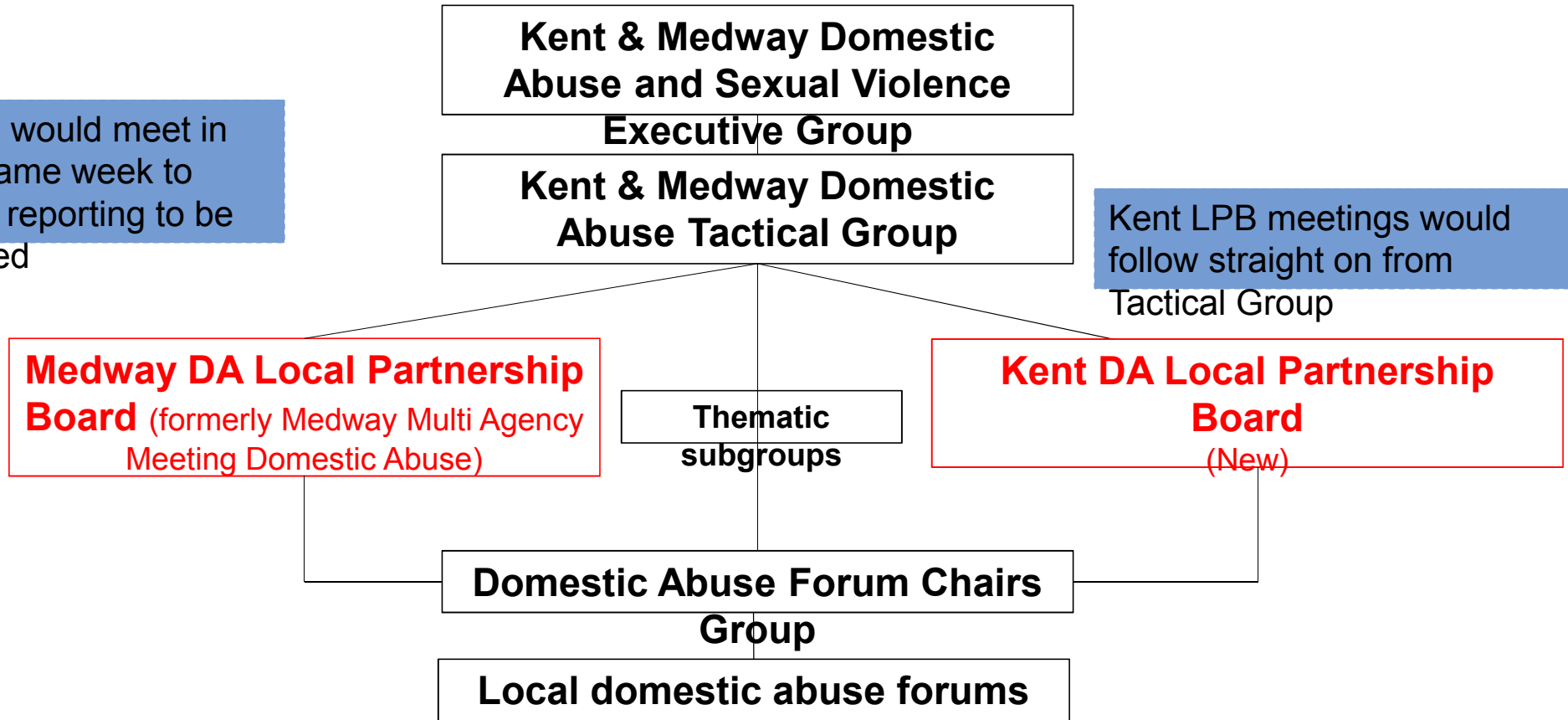
Purpose: To take collective responsibility for ensuring that victims of domestic abuse have access to adequate and appropriate support within safe accommodation services across Kent. In doing so, the Kent DA LPB aims to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse, including their children, through a strategic approach to identifying need for and providing accommodation-based support services.

Responsibilities include:

- Support the undertaking of a **needs assessment** for accommodation-based support services
- Advise on the development of a **strategy** for the provision of those services
- Advise on **commissioning** and de-commissioning decisions to deliver the strategy
- Advise on the most effective way for partner agencies to make use of **resources** and funding to meet needs for accommodation-based support services
- Collectively **monitor and evaluate** local and find and deliver solutions for problems or barriers that arise in the provision of services
- Ensure that the **voice** of survivors, children, families and perpetrators of domestic abuse informs provision of accommodation-based support services in Kent

Local Partnership Boards structure

LPBs would meet in the same week to allow reporting to be aligned



Kent LPB meetings would follow straight on from Tactical Group

Regular reviews of the arrangements

District / Borough / City Council representation

- **Head of Service** or equivalent has been suggested
- May be best fit for Head of **Housing / Community Services**
- Also need to ensure adequate representation of **community safety** expertise
- Representation from all Districts is welcome and it is important we have good representation from **across Kent**
- Suggested **at least one** nominated representative from each of the 4 geographical areas that the current KIDASS contract is arranged around:
 - North (Maidstone, Swale, Dartford, Gravesham)
 - South (Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone & Hythe)
 - East (Dover and Thanet)
 - West (Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling)
- **Will this work for Districts?**
- **What issues would Districts find it helpful to bring / discuss at the LPB?**

Housing provider representation

- **'Housing services'** are expected to be represented on Local Partnership Boards
- This includes housing **providers**
- MHCLG have said that one of the reasons to have housing providers (as well as housing officers) on the LPBs is to provide insight and assistance with **move on** and **secondary housing options** for DA survivors that no longer need support within emergency safe accommodation
- **How would housing providers be best represented?**
- **What issues would housing providers find it helpful to bring / discuss at the LPB?**

Next steps

- **Representatives** will be confirmed from each partner organisation
- **Meetings** will be scheduled by KCC, to align with Exec/Tactical meeting schedule
- LPBs will need to be operational by **April 2021** (first substantive meeting to be in May)
- **Terms of Reference** to be agreed and adopted at the first meeting
- DA is a complex and fast-moving agenda – there may be opportunities to make changes to the governance arrangements over time, learning from best practice. **Regular reviews will be scheduled.**

Thank you

Jenny.Dixon-
Sherreard@kent.gov.uk